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Vol. 21, No. 8/November 10, 1998

Volunteers Magazine

NEWS FROM THE TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

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11/10/98

VOLS BURN BLAZERS 37-13!

VOLUNTEERS MAGAZINE STAFF - 6

INSIDE:

4 Living a Dream — Placekicker Jeff Hall —Rob Hardin

12 Vol & Lady Vol Harriers place 2nd & 3rd at SECs

13 Vols Tip Off Season with an 83-75 win Over the California All-Stars

A Father's Prayer...

From a speech by Archie Manning on September 29, 1988:

Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory.

Build me a son whose wishbone will not be where his backbone should be; a son who will know Thee - and that to know himself is the foundation stone of knowledge.

Lead him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge. Here let him learn to stand up in the storm; here let him learn compassion for those who fail.

Build me a son whose heart will be clear, whose goal will be high; a son who will master himself before he seeks to master other men; one who will learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep; one who will reach into the future, yet never forget the past.

And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor, so that he may always be serious yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility so that he may always remember the simplicity of true greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, the meekness of true strength.

Then I, his father, will dare to whisper, "I have not lived in vain." - *Douglas MacArthur*

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Smokey's Tale
Volunteers
Magazine

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CHAMPS Program

Purpose of Study Hall

The Office of Student Life's Study Hall is designed to facilitate the student-athlete's academic transition from high school to the University of Tennessee. The study hall serves about 60 first year student-athletes annually. In addition to the first year students, upperclassmen are involved in a similar process which requires weekly meetings with assigned tutors.

Many myths reside around the concept of study hall. Some of these are due to stereotypes highlighting the student-athlete's academic failures instead of successes. Most see the need for study hall as a concept designed for deficient students. However, this is not the case at the University of Tennessee. Study hall is an essential part of an athlete's academic progress, and every student-athlete participates in this concept upon entering the University of Tennessee.

The student-athlete has considerable time constraints and the implementation of a designated time to study requires the student to focus on his academic goals. In addition, it requires the student-athlete to learn proper study techniques as well as proper time management skills. Study hall meets Monday through Thursday and ,between these four days, a total of seven hours must be completed. The designated time for study hall is from 7-8:45 p.m.

The athletes meet in assigned rooms with a mentor, whose main purpose is to provide guidance and support and to nurture the student's academic pursuits. On average, for student-athletes involved in study hall, there is a ratio of 8.5 student-athletes per mentor. One can gain a sense of the one-on-one approach taken to enhance the student-athlete's transition.

Most student-athletes come into the University with high standards of academic achievement. Therefore, a minimal amount of academic assistance is needed in many cases, but for those cases who require additional attention, a Special Needs Program is in place for student-athletes with learning disabilities. In addition to the Special Needs Program, tutors are available for athletes who are not comfortable with a particular subject or would like additional practice in mastering a subject.

The tutorial service offered by the Office of Student Life is an essential part of study hall. They complement one another in their purpose - the academic success of the athlete. Athletes usually meet with the tutors during their designated study hall time. However, in order to accommodate the student athletes' hectic schedules, in some cases they meet with their tutors between classes and on Sunday evenings.

The academic success of our student-athletes is important at the University of Tennessee. The men's athletic program takes pride in its athletic endeavors as well as its academic achievements, yielding a "total package," student-athlete equipped and confident for the competition of life.

Roderick Moore, Jr.
Graduate Administrative Assistant

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Living A Dream - Placekicker Jeff Hall!

Jeff Hall has already earned three All-SEC honors and could become the first Vol placekicker to ever earn four All-SEC accolades. Hall is also up for national honors as one of the nation's best placekickers. That, however, won't be determined until the end of the year.

He is Tennessee's all-time scoring leader and holds the Southeastern Conference record for most extra points made and attempted.

But for senior Jeff Hall that has little meaning. He wants Tennessee fans to remember him just as a Tennessee football fan who fulfilled his dream by playing Tennessee football.

"All the records mean two things," Hall said. "I have been here for a while, and I have played with some of the greatest football players to ever play the game. Half of those points have been extra points, and that gives credit to all those guys who have been scoring touchdowns."

Hall kicked seven extra points in the Vols' 49-14 victory over South Carolina on Oct. 31. Those points gave him 318 for his career, one better than John Becksvoort (1991-94) for the career lead at Tennessee. His 168 career extra points made is tops on the SEC career list and the 174 extra points he has attempted also rank first in the SEC. He is also fourth on the SEC career scoring chart, led by Georgia's Kevin Butler with his 353 points.

But for Hall the on-field accomplishments pale in comparison to what he has done for the Knoxville community.

Hall has spent countless hours and made numerous trips to speak with groups in the area. Even during the hectic time of football season, Hall still manages two speaking engagements a week. That is in addition to his academic pursuits and the demands football places on his schedule.

"I made a promise to God that if I was ever in a position to go and speak to people that I would," Hall said. "I really didn't know the implications that promise had.

"I have felt like it has been a responsibility to work in the community, to speak with kids and tell them how important it is to work hard, trust in your faith and stay in school. It has helped me as well. Speaking to groups and meeting all the people has really helped me grow as a Christian."

Hall is not out to change the world.

"I cannot measure the impact I have had off the field," Hall said. "I never tried to change the world. That might have been my mentality my first couple of years when I first started speaking to groups, without realizing only God can change the world. I just hope I can make it a little more tolerable. If I have been fortunate enough that God has used me to make an impact, that's great."

Hall has made things more tolerable for the Big Orange faithful on game day. His consistency and dependability have been a staple for the Vols during the last four years. But Hall's time on the Hill has been anything but consistent.

He was redshirted his freshman year and learned how to adapt to the college game by watching Becksvoort.

Taking the year to adjust was beneficial for Hall.

"I got to be a fan and a football player at the same time during my first year," he said. "I was really able to take things in and see what was going on. I watched John and saw his reactions to things and how he handled himself. It was really influential on how I was going to go about my business.

"I never thought I would be able to hold a candle to John Becksvoort. I'm Jeff Hall. I have been a Vol fan since I was 9-years-old, and I am going to go out and have fun. That has been my attitude from the beginning and has been so ever since."

At the beginning of Hall's redshirt freshman year, he had a chance to make an immediate impact for the Vols.

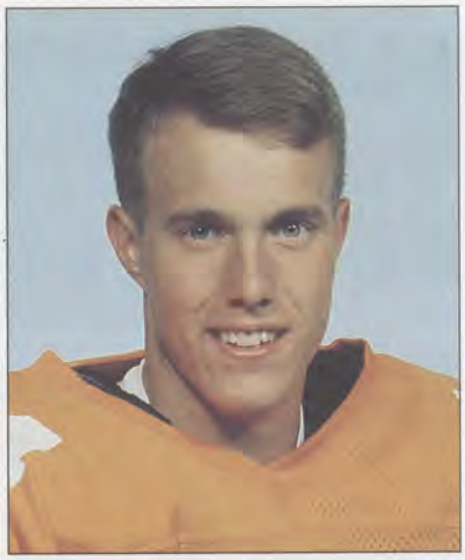
football team."

Heroics aside, Hall has had his share of struggles as a Vol.

The back injury marked the sophomore year of the Winchester native.

"The injury was very hard for me," Hall said. "I kept thinking about what was going to happen. I have been kicking since I was 9-years-old, and now all of sudden it was coming to an end. All I tried to do my sophomore year was to make it through the season. It was so hard to get focused and hyped up for a game, because I was just trying to stay healthy for that weekend.

"I knew there was going to be surgery and rehab in the off-season. I knew I had to stay focused and dedicated and believe everything was going to work out. It has so far."



"I like to tackle. I consider myself a closet linebacker. I don't like it when they break one. You want to get the ball in the end zone or have the coverage team get them inside the 20. But if someone breaks one and I have the opportunity to make a tackle, I get fired up. I don't have many opportunities to make a tackle, so I have to make the most of it."

—Placekicker Jeff Hall

With the score knotted at 27 against Georgia, Hall connected on a 34-yard field goal with 10 seconds remaining on the clock. It wasn't until his senior year that he was in that situation again. His field goal as time expired lifted Tennessee to a 34-33 win over Syracuse and his 41-yarder against Florida in overtime was the eventual game winner. But to Hall, all kicks are the same.

"Every kick is the same, and when you start treating them differently is when you have problems," he said.

As for the 20-17 win over Florida, Hall declines to take sole credit for the win.

"I'm thinking defense, defense, Al Wilson, Al Wilson," he said. "In every game, we have played so much as a team. No one wants to take credit this season, and I just want to contribute and do my job. We are winning. That is the most important thing for this

The back injury made Hall thankful for what he did have.

"It made me appreciate what I had," he said. "When you kick year round and then go two or three months without kicking, it makes you appreciate what you have. People always say you don't know what you have got until it's gone. When it was gone, I knew what I had. I knew I had to work hard to get back."

He was coming off back surgery his junior year and played a part in the Vols' 1997 SEC Championship.

Now his senior year is here, and Hall is enjoying the moment.

"I never expected for my career to go up and down like it has," he said. "This year has been so much fun playing. We are close as a team, I am a senior and I was elected captain. I really don't know exactly what it is, but I truly love my teammates. I wish I could go out and play offense and defense with those guys sometimes. I love seeing them do well."

Being a captain has also been a great experience for him.

"I got excited when I was picked as captain, but I didn't vote for myself," Hall said. "When we voted as a team, Coach Fulmer told the seniors if they felt like they could lead this team, to go ahead and put their name down. I started to but I stopped and said a quick prayer and told God if he wanted me to have this then I would."

He was in fact selected as a captain, but Hall really hasn't changed that much.

"I just wanted to keep doing the things that got me here," he said. "I have always been real meticulous about my work habits. I always take practice seriously. I really identified with Peyton Manning and how he went about his work. That brought out something in me I didn't know I had. I thought that is how I needed to be. That made me want to work hard and be dedicated and not settle for anything less than perfection."

Hall has been a three-time All-SEC performer and for his work in the community he was named to the American Football Coaches Association "good works" Team.

But he will always remember his days in the Orange and White as living out his childhood dream. That's a great legacy for Hall to leave once he's made his last kick as a Vol.

—Rob Hardin

Happy Homecoming 1998!... Tennessee 37, UAB 13!

Shields-Watkins Field, Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 7, 1998 (Game No. 1024, 685-286-53, .695)

The beat goes on. Tennessee moved to 8-0 on the season with a 37-13 victory over UAB on a cool afternoon and evening at Gen. Neyland's Stadium before a crowd of 106,508 that enjoyed the proceedings immensely. It is the first time the Vols have been 8-0 since the SEC Championship season of 1956, after the famous 6-0 triumph over Georgia Tech in Atlanta, 42 years ago three days from now.

With Ohio State's loss to Michigan State, the Vols vaulted to the No. 1 spot in the Coaches' Poll (tied with Kansas State)and in AP, making the final trifecta of Arkansas and Kentucky (here in Knoxville) and Vanderbilt in Nashville full of great possibilities but also full of great potential pitfalls. The last three games will continue this season's run of tough tests every week.

Tennessee led from the outset today, by as much as 31 en route to the triumph. Tee Martin completed 18 of 25 passes for 274 yards and one scores, a 28-yard toss to Cedrick Wilson in the third quarter. Tee also scored on a 1-yard run in the second quarter. Peerless Price caught six passes for 103 yards.

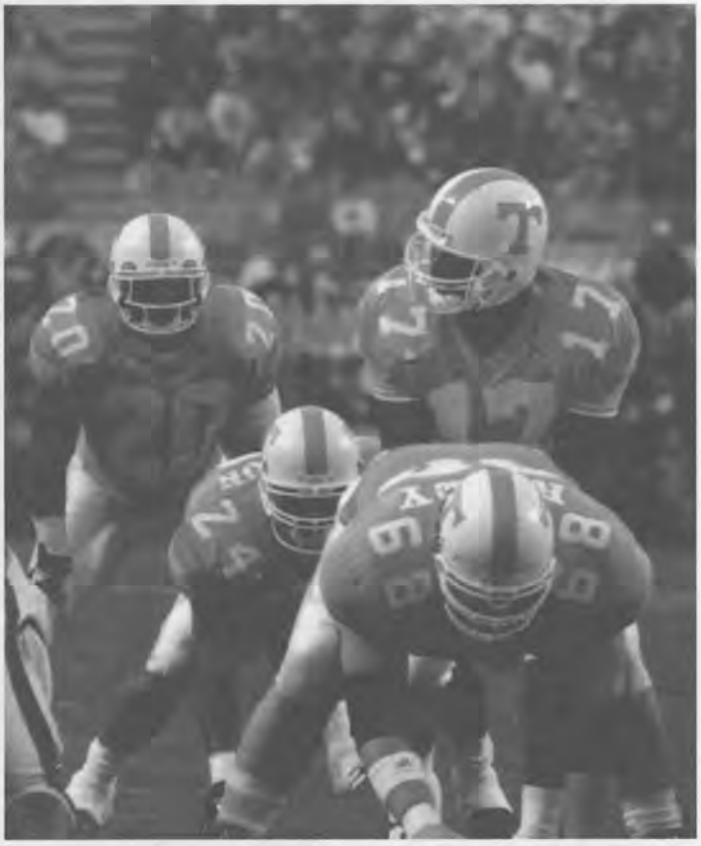
The Travises continued their impressive performances, with Travis Henry carrying for 104 on 17 attempts and Travis Stephens lugging the spheroid for 61 yards on 14 carries. Each had a touchdown, Henry's from 18 yards out and Stephens from the 11. Henry's came at the north end, Stephens at the south end.

"I felt real comfortable tonight," Henry said after a cool November day turned into a cool November evening, "and I was just trying to get the tough yards. We are just trying to get better each week and I'm glad to be a Tennessee Volunteer."

Jeff Hall had field goals of 39, 20 and 27 and knocked home four extra points.

The Vols jumped to a 10-0 first quarter lead, moving to a Hall fielder off the opening kickoff, keyed by a 24-yard pass from T. Martin to Stephens, which was followed by a 15-yard penalty for a facemask. Hall's field goal came from 39 yards out and gave the Vols a lead they would never relinquish.

Henry had gains of 11 and 13 on the next drive and T.Martin had a 14-yard toss to Price to move it closer. Two plays later, T. Martin hit Price for 13 and Shawn Bryson for 15. After Henry ran for 8, He found paydirt at the right side from 18 yards out. The drive was 97 yards in 10 plays.



Tee Martin led the Vol attack against UAB, helped by running back Travis Henry (20) and center Spencer Riley (68). John Karnes photo.

After a UAB field goal, Stephens capped a nine play, 69-yard drive with an 11-yard run. The key play was 24-yarder to Price down the right side going southward. Price added a 9-yard catch just before the scoring play.

Martin led a third TD drive keyed by a 26-yard completion to C. Wilson. Martin sneaked for the score and it was 24-3 at the half.

After Steve Johnson found a fumble near midfield, the Vols scored in three plays to move the margin to 31-3. T. Martin hit Copeland for 11, sent Henry at left end for 8 and found C. Wilson for 28 yards and the score.

"I faked outside, went post, and it was wide open," C.Wilson said. "Tee Martin put the ball on the money and the offensive line gave him time to throw it.

"I just wanted to make the most out of the opportunities I had."

After Vol defenders battled poor field position at the 15 caused by a Vol bobble, Tennessee held the ball for 4:32 on their way to Hall's 20-yard fielder.

T. Martin hit Price for 12 and Bryson for 15. He then found Copeland for 21. It was 34-6 at the third quarter break and school was pretty much out of session.

After Shaun Ellis returned a fumble 65 yards (he's getting quite good at lumbering down the field), Hall's 37-yard field goal made the margin 37-6.

UAB got the last olive out of the bottle with a late score and the final margin was set at 37-13.

Al Wilson and Raynoch Thompson led the assault from the Vol defensive

unit which poured in on Blazer quarterback Daniel Dixon like the Oakland Raiders of old of maybe the Pirates from the comic strip "Terry and the Pirates." Al Wilson and Thompson each had eight tackles, followed by Eric Westmoreland and Darwin Walker with six each. Westmoreland also had two tackles for loss (-16), followed by Corey Terry (-2), Thompson (-3), Chris Ramseur (-3), Dominique Stevenson (-2) and Ron Green (-2) with one each.

Jeff Coleman and Terry caused fumbles and Ellis and Johnson gratefully accepted the bobbles.

GAME NOTES: Tee Martin has now had 70 passing attempts without an interception, dating to the second quarter of the Georgia game on Oct. 10. He is now 67-for-89 for 862 yards and seven touchdowns and 217 yards per game... Price passed Thomas (T.D.) Woods on the all-time receiving list with 126 receptions at third place. He now has 1901 yards , placing him fifth on the Vol yardage list, passing Carl Pickens (1989-9) and behind Larry Seivers (1973-76), who has 1924 for his career... Hall is now third in the SEC in all-time career scoring with 331 points, within reach of Georgia's Kevin Butler (353) and Alabama's Phillip Doyle (345). He is also tenth in career field goals with 53 in 80 attempts... Tennessee is now 50-2 in the month of November since 1985... Tennessee has beaten three teams fro m the state of Alabama in the same season for the first time... The Vols did not punt at all, the first time that has happened since the 1996 Kentucky game... Tennessee has outscored its opponents 202-64 in the last six games and 256-114 overall... The Vols have only given up 10.7 points per game the last six times out... The crowd was the largest ever to see the Blazers play.

WEEKEND NOTES: Tennessee's golf team took the team title at the Crown Classic of Lufkin, Texas, thier first team title since 1996. The Vols fired rounds of 302-297-293--892 to steal the lead from Texas-Arlington. Sophomore Andy Brimer finished second in the individual competition with scores of 75-72-70, his best collegiate finish. Junior Derrick Centers came from behind to finish seventh with rounds of 77-70-73--220, his best 54-hole score and finish of the season... In tennis, Peter Handayo earned a spot in the finals of the ITA Region III Indoor Championships in Athens, Ga., with two wins on Nov. 7. No. 97 Handayo defetaed sixth-seeded Marco Baron of Mississippi State and Martin Woisetschlager of UAB to reach the finals.

–Volunteers Magazine Staff

Division	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
EAST				
Tennessee	5	0	8	0
Florida	6	1	8	1
Georgia	4	2	6	2
Kentucky	3	3	6	3
Vanderbilt	1	5	2	7
S. Carolina	0	7	1	8
WEST				
Arkansas	5	0	8	0
Miss. St.	3	2	5	3
Ole Miss	3	3	6	3
Alabama	3	3	6	3
LSU	2	5	4	5
Auburn	1	5	3	6

SEC Scores: Auburn 10, Central Florida 6; Alabama 22, LSU 16, Florida 45, Vanderbilt 6, Arkansas 34, Mississippi 0, Kentucky 37, MIssissippi State 35

Tennessee Statistics vs. UAB

Team Statistics	TENN	UAB
First Down	27	15
Rushing	11	14
Passing	14	2
Penalty	2	1
Rushing Attempts	43	51
Yards Gained	197	244
Yards Lost	24	33
Net Yards Rushing	173	211
Net Yards Passing	274	71
Passes Attempted	25	14
Passes Completed	18	7
Had Intercepted	0	0
Total Offensive Plays	68	65
Total Net Yards	447	282
Fumbles-Lost	3-3	3-2
Int. Return/Yards	0-0	0-0
Penalties/Yards	4-30	7-43
3rd Down Conversions	4/10	8/19
4th Down Conversions	2/2	0/0
Punts/Average	0-0	6-38
Punt Returns/Yards	3-27	0-0
Kickoff Returns/Yards	2-45	8-177
Sacks By/Yards	0-0	3-16
Time of Possession	24:59	35:01

SCORE BY QUARTER

UAB	**0**	**3**	**3**	**7**	**— 13**
TENNESSEE	**10**	**14**	**10**	**3**	**— 37**

1T - Hall, FG 39.
Drive: 52 yards, 6 plays, 1:42 possession, 13:18 on clock.
1T - Henry, run 18. Hall kick.
Drive: 97 yards, 10 plays, 4:39 possession, 4:36 on clock.
2A - Gallego, FG 20.
Drive: 45 yards, 9 plays, 4:05 possession, 12:34 on clock.
2T - Stephens, run 11. Hall kick.
Drive: 65 yards, 9 plays, 3:05 possession, 9:09 on clock.
2T - T. Martin, run 1. Hall kick.
Drive: 46 yards, 7 plays, 2:15 possession, 4:26 on clock.
3T - C. WIlson, pass from T. Martin 28. Hall kick.
Drive: 45 yards, 3 plays, 1:09 possession, 12:05 on clock.
3A - Gallego, FG 36.
Drive: -4 yards, 3 plays, :55 possession, 8:07 on clock.
3T - Hall, FG 20.
Drive: 73 yards, 12 plays, 4:32 possession, 3:35 on clock.
4T - Hall, FG 37.
Drive: -3 yards, 3 plays, :54 possession, 10:29 on clock.
4A - Jolly, run 32. Gallego kick.
Drive: 78 yards, 5 plays, 2:20 possession, 2:36 on clock.

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

	Att.	Gain	Lost	Net	TD	Long
Henry	17	104	0	104	1	18
Stephens	14	69	8	61	1	24
T. Martin	6	5	16	-11	1	3
Crosby	3	3	0	3	0	2
Price	1	12	0	12	0	12
Bartholomew1		3	0	3	0	3
Bryson	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**
Totals	**43**	**197**	**24**	**173**	**3**	**24**
UAB	*51*	*244*	*33*	*211*	*1*	*39*

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yards	TD	Long
T. Martin	25	18	0	274	3	28
UAB	*14*	*7*	*0*	*71*	*0*	*28*

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Price	6	103	0	27
C. Wilson	4	70	1	28
Copeland	4	60	0	23
Bryson	3	36	0	15
Stephens	1	5	0	5
Totals	**18**	**274**	**1**	**28**
UAB	*7*	*71*	*0*	*28*

PUNTING

	No.	Yards.	Avg.	Long
Leaverton	NA			
UAB	*6*	*228*	*38.0*	*49*

PUNT RETURNS

	Ret	Yds	Avg.	TD	Long
Parker	3	27	9	0	11

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Ret	Yds	Avg.	TD	Long
Price	2	45	22.5	0	23
UAB	*8*	*177*	*21.3*	*0*	*32*

FIELD GOALS

	0-29	30-39	40-49	50-60	60+	Long
Hall	1-1	2-2				39
UAB	*1-1*	*1-1*				*36*

Fulmer File...

UAB GAME 1998!

Arkansas hits town Saturday, tagged by the media as the Cinderella story of college football, but let me assure you the Razorbacks are for real.

When they come to Neyland Stadium for the 3:30 p.m. kickoff this Saturday, our fans will see a team stacked with quality players coached by a man who is doing a superb job bringing out their potential.

Believe me. The coaching profession isn't for the weary or the faint of heart. It's one challenge after another. And the challenge we face Saturday will test our abilities to contend with a team playing at the highest degree of confidence.

Before I get too absorbed in talking about the Razorbacks, I want to express how happy I was to walk off the field with a 37-13 victory over UAB. The win didn't come easy. The Blazers' coach, Watson Brown -- a long-time friend of mine -- did everything he could to make a close game of it.

Watson has few equals when it comes to offensive innovation. He took a sound approach in going after us by combining his imaginative repertoire of plays with a plan designed to run the clock and shorten the game. The Blazers gave us plenty of problems, aided somewhat by our three fumbles. Give UAB and its coaching staff credit for devising a strategy that maximized their chances against us.

When we make plans for Arkansas, we'll allocate special attention toward eliminating fumbles. That undermines one of the areas that has been one of our strengths -- turnover ratio. We'll see what went wrong that caused us to cough it up three times against UAB. That's not characteristic of the way we play, and we sure don't want to slip backwards at this stage.

Early in the game, we put together a drive that worked to perfection in producing a 10-point lead. After a Jeff Hall field goal on our first possession, we took over following a UAB punt the Blazers downed at our 3. Nineteen plays later, Travis Henry romped in from the UAB 18. The 97-yard march was our longest of the season.

After the game, most of the media's questions revolved around the Bowl Championship Series. I reiterated my belief that things you must do under the present set-up are not in the spirit of college football. It's ridiculous that you tailor your strategy to impress a computer or some voter out in California. Until we get a playoff series, which is something I advocate, this is probably the way it's going to be.

In my way of thinking, it is a shame that you have to leave players in the game when your common sense and desire for fair play tell you to do otherwise. That's the world we live in, obviously, and we have got to make the best of the circumstances that exist.

We are catching an Arkansas team that is getting better with every game. As I said, the Razorbacks returned a seasoned team, but coach Houston Nutt has done a brilliant job of bringing them along in his first year at Fayetteville. Arkansas is similar to us in many respects, especially in taking care of the football.

The Vols are in for a tough week of practice. We'll work on everything that may help us get ready for the Razorbacks. Our goal remains to win the Eastern Division championship of the Southeastern Conference, and the first obstacle in our path is a highly-capable Arkansas team.

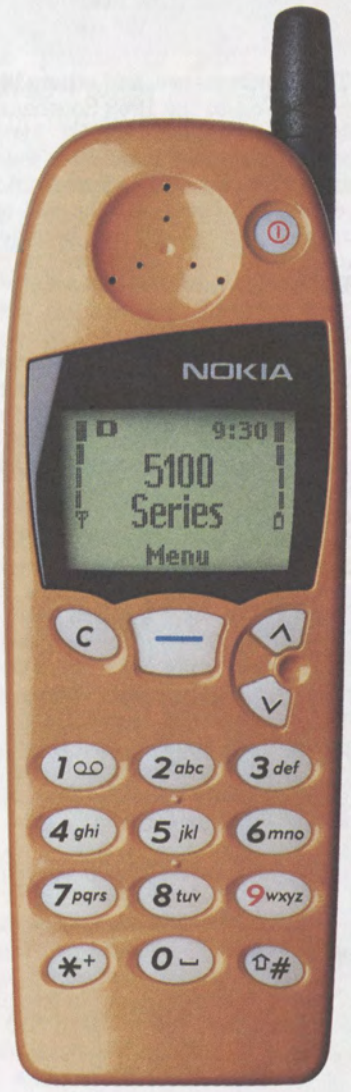
Most UT fans were still at their seats when the UAB game ended. We need the same level of support when we go up against Arkansas Saturday in a crucial showdown between two of the nation's remaining unbeaten teams

—Phillip Fulmer

"After the game, most of the media's questions revolved around the Bowl Championship Series. I reiterated my belief that things you must do under the present set-up are not in the spirit of college football. It's ridiculous that you taylor your strategy to impress a computer or some voter out in California. Until we get a playoff series, which is something I advocate, this is probably the way it's going to be."

– Phillip Fulmer

Put On Your Game Face.



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Tennessee Tradition...

Ben Byrd on the Vols... "The Crossville Comet!"

They called him the "Crossville Comet," a rather appropriate nickname. He lit up the Tennessee football sky in the late 1960s and early '70s.

Curt Watson was one of the few Vol fullbacks ever to carry the main offensive load; that was something that has historically been reserved for tailbacks. But two head coaches, first Doug Dickey and then Bill Battle, elected to build their attacks around the sturdy youngster from the Cumberland Plateau, and he never once failed to deliver.

Watson was a fairly big fullback for his era, 6-0 and 215, but it was his marvelous body control that set him apart from the rest. He ran with his head low and his powerful legs constantly churning, and he had a natural gift for sniffing out the gaps in the defense.

He made the starting lineup at the outset of his sophomore year in '69, but it was mid-season before his name made the headlines. Those Vols of 29 years ago carried a perfect record into a showdown battle with a very strong Georgia team at Athens on the afternoon of Nov. 1.

A leaden gray sky hung over Sanford Stadium that day, and a steady rain pelted the playing field. It seemed to be much more Georgia's kind of day than Tennessee's. Bulldog coach Vince Dooley loved it when the game was played tackle to tackle, while the Vols preferred to open it up with quarterback Bobby Scott's passing. On this day, however, sophomore Watson beat the Bulldogs at their own game.

I recall writing at the time that I had never seen a better performance by a UT football player, and now, three decades later, I still haven't seen anything happen to change my mind. Time and time again Watson smashed into a Georgia line that was stacked to stop him. Sometimes he would drape three or four tacklers along with him as he fought for extra yardage. Then he would get up, shake himself off like a big dog coming out of the river, and do it again.

Watson rushed for 197 yards on 19 carries in that 17-3 Tennessee victory, breaking Tom Tracy's 15-year record for the most yards gained by a Vol back. And that was done without the benefit of a long breakaway run.

That performance, and others like it, helped the Vols to the 1969 Southeastern Conference championship. He kept up the pace in his junior and senior seasons, which both produced big winners under a new coach, Bill Battle. At the end of his remarkable career Curt had become one of the very few Vol players ever to make All-SEC in all three of his varsity seasons.

He wound up his career with a school-record 2,364 yards on 529 rushes, 22 touchdowns and a 5.4 yard per carry average. Despite the four-year eligibility rule and the high-powered offenses that have come along since, he still ranks No. 4 among Tennessee's all-time rushing leaders.

He almost missed the final game of his career. He was on the shelf with a painful rib injury when the Vols faced Arkansas in the 1971 Liberty Bowl. But trainer Mickey O'Brien had refurbished some old 1938 style pads that helped minimize the pain, and Watson told Coach Battle he was ready. Battle was not all that sure about it, and for most of three quarters Curt was tugging at Battle's sleeve. Finally, with the Vols trailing late in the third period, Battle gave him the go-ahead signal.

Once again it was Watson to the rescue. The Vols were down 13-7 and appeared to be beaten when they recovered a Razorback fumble at the Arkansas 35 with just a couple of minutes left to play. From there they scored in two plays, Watson providing the 17-yard TD run with one of his typical slam-bang charges. George Hunt kicked the PAT and the Vols had won, 14-13.

Curt Watson went on to even greater fame. After two seasons in the NFL with the Saints and Packers, he joined the Navy and was accepted for flight school. He spent eleven years as a pilot of Navy jets, including four years with the world-heralded Blue Angels. He later flew for Federal Express and then served as director for the state's anti-drug program for youngsters. Modest, unassuming, Watson always left everything he had on the playing field, and his career reminds us of all that is good in college football.

Former Vol

Carl Witherspoon (1971-72)

Karns High School's Carl Witherspoon played lettered at UT in 1971-72 and is best known for one major game-turning play.

With Arkansas leading the 1971 Liberty Bowl 13-7 late in the fourth quarter, Witherspoon some how emerged form the pile with an Arkansas fumble at the Hog 36. The play happened right in front of the Vol bench and Witherspoon was there to make the recovery.

Tennessee went on to score two plays later and the Vols took a 14-13 victory in one of the most exciting Vol bowl games ever.

No one knows how he did it, but Witherspoon etched his name in Vol history on a cold night in December 1971 at the Liberty Bowl.

T-Club records indicate that Witherspoon still lives in Kingston.

Carl Witherspoon made the game's biggest play in the 1971 Liberty Bowl, as the Vols rallied to win 14-13.

Martin Claims SEC Player of the Week Honors

After his NCAA and record setting school performance, Tee Martin was named as the SEC's Offensive Player of the Week.

Martin came into the South Carolina game completing just over 50 percent of his passes on the season. However, over his last three games Martin has been in a groove hitting on 76.6 percent of his passes (49 of 64 for 588 yards). During that time he has connected on six TDs against only two interceptions.

The Gamecocks happened to catch Martin at a bad time as the junior quarterback connected on his first 23 passes, four of those for scores and 315 yards. Going back to the Alabama game where Martin hit his last pass, making it 24 straight passes without an incompletion over a two game span. Compile that with the 95.8 percent completion percentage for the South Carolina game and you have three NCAA records.

The records were held by Chuck Long (for completions with 22) and Rick Neuheisel (current Univ. of Colorado head coach) with a 92.6 percentage completion (25 of 27).

The Vols also set a team NCAA completion percentage record as they hit on 24 of 25 passes, good enough for a 96.0 percentage mark. The record had been set in 1983 set by UCLA against Washington (92.6).

Hall Also in Record Books

With seven extra points against South Carolina, placekicker Jeff Hall set the Tennessee career scoring record with 318 points, bettering the mark of 317 set by placekicker John Becksvoort.

Hall also set the SEC mark for career PATs made with 168. He also holds the career PATs attempted mark of 174.

He currently ranks fourth in the SEC in both career scoring and kick scoring with his 318 points. He needs nine points to pass Alabama's Michael Proctor for third. Georgia's Kevin Butler holds the SEC mark with 353 points.

Hall has made 18 of his last 24 field goal attempts, and has 50 in his career which ranks him 11th currently. He needs two more field goals to tie Becksvoort for 10th in SEC career field goals.

Vols Bow Out After Good Showing

Mark Parsons was defeated by fifth seed and No. 44 Vikrant Chada of Ole Miss 7-5, 6-2 in the semifinal match at the Ole Miss Indoor Tennis Championships in Oxford, Miss. Parsons, sixth seed and ranked 100th, defeated Pierre Nicolas of Mississippi State the previous night 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 in a second round match. In the quarterfinals, Parsons shocked top seed and No. 25 Martin Sjoqvist of Ole Miss by defeating him in straight sets, 7-6 (1), 6-2. Parsons ran his record to 9-3.

After winning his second round match against Mathieu Soto, Tennessee's Peter Handoyo lost his quarterfinal match to James Shortall of Ole Miss 6-2, 6-3. Handoyo has a 14-3 record.

After dropping his second round match, Paul Podbury went 2-0 on the day in consolation play. Podbury defeated Ole Miss' Bo Petro 6-4, 6-3. Later in the day, Podbury beat David Blackburn of Ole Miss 6-0, 6-4. Podbury stands 9-4 on the season.

Vol Andy Crews won his first consolation match against Blackburn of Ole Miss 6-1, 6-2. In his second consolation match, Crews defeated Petro of Ole Miss 6-4, 6-3. Crews' record is 4-7.

—Volunteers Magazine Staff

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This Week In Big Orange Country

Harriers 2nd at SECs

Running a career-best 8K time of 24:14, senior Doug Ellington led Tennessee to its best conference finish since 1995 as the Vols finished second at the SEC Cross Country Championship on Oct. 31 at Lambert Acres Golf Club.

The Vols ran their best race of the year and head coach George Watts was pleased with the effort and the finish of his squad. "I am happy with our finish after being fifth last year. Our goal this year was to get second in the SEC and then qualify for nationals. We are well on our way," Watts noted. In fact, the runner-up finish to Arkansas shows the improvement made between this year and last. The surprise is how it happened.

"I was the only guy returning from the top five last year and that usually means a bad year. But, we got three transfers and we came together really well. We have been focused all year and this was a big turnaround for our team. I am excited with my finish and with the team's finish. Hopefully, we can carry this momentum into the next couple of weeks," Ellington said. "It was good to see Fam (Anthony Famiglietti) and Jon (Jamison) finish in the top 15."

"Doug ran a race today that gave him a chance to win and I can't be more proud of the way he ran," Watts said. "Chris Hendrix-Buxton, Anthony (Famiglietti) and Joe Dickson all did a nice job. Dickson stepped up and really carried the load as he finished our four guy. What a difference a year makes."

Doug Ellington took second overall behind Arkansas' Michael Powers. UT's Famiglietti finished 11th (25:28) and Jamison claimed 12th (25:31) behind the leader's time of 23:55. Ellington, Famiglietti and Jamison earned All-SEC honors for their individual performance.

"We ran a great team race and had a few guys step up. For me, this was the best race of my career. Hopefully, we continue to run well and then qualify for nationals," Jamison said.

"I am very proud to be on this team. These are the most dedicated guys I have ever been able to train and compete with and we are yet to perform to our maximum ability. I believe that when regionals come around we will be at our best. Coach Watts has done a terrific job motivating and setting goals for us and he has our sights set on nationals," Famiglietti added.

Tennessee's next race will be at the South Regional on Nov. 14 in Birmingham, Ala. A first or second-place finish in Birmingham would earn the Vols a spot the NCAA Championship at Lawrence, Kan., on Nov. 23.

— Matt Dortch

The 1998 Tennessee Cross Country Team.

Freshman Sharon Dickie claimed the seventh spot at the SEC Cross Country Championships.

Lady Vols Claim 3rd at SECs

The Lady Volunteer cross country team took third place at the Southeastern Conference Championships at Lambert Acres Golf Course in Maryville Oct. 31. The third-place finish was an improvement over last year's sixth-place finish.

"I was very pleased with the team's performance today. It was a battle out there, but the team did great and it was fun to run in front of a home crowd," Head Coach Brenda Webb said.

No. 22 Tennessee was paced by freshman Sharon Dickie who finished seventh overall with a time of 17:41.65. Senior Maureen Ferris finished in the 11 spot with a time of 17:53.13. Both runners secured All-SEC honors with their performance along with all other runners who finished in the top 15.

"I knew Sharon was going to be a good athlete," said Webb, a former Vol All-America performer in 1977 and 1978. "In high school, she didn't always have the best competitive situations. I thought, if given the opportunity, she would be one of the top runners in the conference." Rounding out the top five scorers for UT were juniors Kristen Ritter (18:10.22) and Angie Pothier (18:13.79) and senior Dorothy Denko (18:15.63). Also finishing for Webb's squad were juniors Mindy Watkins (18:21.19), Meghan Mantlo (18:47.10) and Amy Bartosik (19:10.6).

Arkansas broke Florida's two-year reign as the league champions. The Lady Gators returned five All-SEC performers, but the Lady Razorbacks were too much. Led by defending individual champion Amy Yoder, No. 5 Arkansas posted 25 points and claimed four of the top five spots. Yoder successfully defended her title with a time of 16:52.22. She outdistanced fellow Razorback, Jessica Koch, by just over two seconds. Claiming third was Arkansas' Tracy Robertson (16:56.28), and fourth place went to Alabama freshmen Ashley LaBudde (17:32.50). Rounding out the top five was Arkansas senior Karen Bockel (17:33.60).

Following Arkansas in the team standings were Florida with 48 points and then the Lady Vols with 73.

Fourth place was taken by Alabama (147) and the Lady Bulldogs from Georgia rounded out the top five (157).

Arkansas had won five straight SEC titles between 1991 and 1995 before the Gators claimed their two titles.

Dickie and Ferris were the first All-SEC performers for the Lady Vols since Michelle Reasor earned that honor in 1994.

The Lady Vols will travel to Birmingham for the South Regional Nov. 14. The top three teams and top four individuals not members of those teams will qualify for the NCAA Championships in Lawrence, Kan., Nov. 23.

—Volunteers Magazine Staff

Tennessee hoops got off to its 1998 season with a 83-75 victory over the California All-Stars Thursday.

Freshmen Vincent Yarbrough led the Big Orange with 17 points and nine rebounds. The Cleveland native hit his first shot as a collegian and never looked back.

"I said to myself earlier in the day that I was not going to miss my first shot," he said. "After I made it, I felt like I really belonged here. It also gave me a lot of confidence. I felt good about my offensive performance."

Tennessee coach Jerry Green was also pleased with Yarbrough's play.

"Vincent looked a little more mature in the game than he has in practice," Green said. "I was pleased with his scoring, and he did a good job of getting to the boards for us. He showed everybody he has an upside. I'm certainly glad we have him."

The Vol offense started off a little sluggish in the first half when the Al-Stars opened the game in a zone defense. In their previous games, they have mostly played man-to-man. This caused some problems for the Vol attack, but also showed them what they needed to do to improve.

"We need to operate better against the zone," Green said. "We made some adjustments at halftime and shot the ball better in the second half. We held the ball and did not move it the way we need to.

"We did not execute very well against the zone, and when we get open shots, we need to make them."

Tennessee trailed 34-31 at the half, but pulled ahead 41-40 on an Isiah Victor layup with 16:01 on the clock.

Then with the score tied at 56, the Vols went on a 13-3 run capped by a slam and a 3-pointer from Yarbrough.

The score stood at 69-59 with 4:59 to play. The All-Stars got no closer than seven the rest of the way.

Junior C.J. Black finished with 16 points on 6-7 shooting and pulled in eight rebounds. Rashard Lee added 11.

Tony Harris making his sophomore debut dropped in 12 points and had nine assists.

"My all-around play was better than last year, and my leadership was better," Harris said. "I wanted to get my teammates involved. I am real comfortable with the way the team played, and we will become more of a team the more we play."

Former UCLA Bruin Charles O'Bannon led the All-Stars with 23 points.

— Rob Hardin

California All-Stars (75)

O'Bannon 23, Moten 10, McCoy 5, Flynn 22, Harris 5, Wright 1, Quinet 5, Dantzler 0, Nelson 2, Benjamin 2. Totals 27-66, 15-25 75.

Tennessee (83)

Lee, 11, Victor 8, Black 16, Wharton 9, A. Harris 12, Green 6, Yarbrough 17, Baker 0, Davis 2, T. Harris 0, Hathaway 2. Totals 30-66 13-23 83.

Halftime: *California 34-31.* ***3-pointers:*** *California 6-10, Tennessee 10-27.* ***Rebounds:*** *California 40 (Moten 11), Tennessee 48 (Yarbrough 9).* ***Assists:*** *California 15 (Flynn 4), Tennessee 16 (A. Harris 9).* ***A:*** *8501.*

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VASF & MARKETING NEWS

Free Basketball Shuttle will be Provided for 1998-99 Season

Once again, the athletic department will provide a courtesy shuttle between the Agricultural campus and Thompson-Boling Arena for all regular season home basketball games. Please note that there are some available "pay-to-park" lots on the main campus on weekends, but not on week nights due to University evening classes. The majority of "pay-to-park" spaces will be available on the Agricultural campus for the 1998-99 season.

VASF Office Open on Nov. 21.

If Tennessee's football game with the University of Kentucky is set for a 3:30 p.m. start, then the VASF Office will be open from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. When you come up for the final home game, be sure to stop by the VASF office and say hello. Watch your local newspaper for game time details.

Make 1999 VASF Donation Early for Tax Credits

The 1998 tax year is drawing to a close and the VASF would like to take this opportunity to remind all donors this is a wonderful time to make their 1999 contributions and still receive 1998 tax credit. In order to allow adequate processing time, all 1999 early donations (checks, cash and credit cards) must be received in the VASF office by Dec. 14, 1998. Don't let this opportunity pass.

Southeastern Conference Football Championship Game

If the Volunteers play their way back to Atlanta to defend their title, the Office of Athletic Development and the ticket office hope to be ready. Ticket applications for SEC game tickets were mailed Nov. 4 to all donors at the Trailblazer levels and above. Also included were all donors who are ranked among the first 1,000 donors using the VASF point system. Receipt of an application does not guarantee tickets. The game will be played in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Ga. on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 8 p.m.

Tickets are $45 each and the University of Tennessee will receive only 15,000 tickets if the Volunteers earn the right to play. That total includes tickets which must be allocated to students, members of the official travel party, player and coach families, band members and the University administration. The VASF office anticipates there will be no extra tickets remaining after filling donor orders.

The deadline for returning ticket applications is Nov. 16. Ticket orders will be filled according to priority order by donor category using the VASF point system. Tickets will be shipped via United Parcel Service during the week after Tennessee has clinched the SEC Eastern division, either on Nov. 23 or Nov. 30.

Tickets that are marked "will call" will be available at the Thompson-Boling Arena ticket office the week of the game or at the Georgia Dome only on Dec. 5. Call the ticket office the week of the game for specific gate information at (423) 656-1200.

Baseball Banquet

The 1999 Leadoff Banquet is approaching. Reserve your tickets today for the Feb. 1 event to be held at Thompson-Boling Arena. Former Los Angeles Dodgers centerfielder Brett Butler will be this year's keynote speaker. Tickets are $25 per person or $200 for a table seating eight. Corporate tables are $275 for seven guests and one Vol baseball player or coach. Corporate table-holders also receive a special pre-banquet reception with Butler. The food will be catered by Calhoun's of Knoxville. For more information or to reserve your space, call the Marketing office at (423) 974-1734.

Basketball Big Game Packages Available

The 1998-99 Big Game Package contains four of Tennessee's toughest home game opponents for only $48. All of these games are on Saturdays and there is no guessing where your seats will be each game as these tickets are for the same seats all four games. Watch as the Vols take on the South Carolina Gamecocks (Jan. 9), the Alabama Crimson Tide (Jan. 30), the Vanderbilt Commodores (Feb. 13) and the defending National Champion Kentucky Wildcats (Feb. 23). ***THIS KENTUCKY GAME WILL BE JOHN WARD'S FINAL HOME BROADCAST.***

Call the Ticket office at (423) 656-1200 to order. You may charge by phone with a Visa, MasterCard or Discover card if you like

Court for Sale

Volunteer fans, the University of Tennessee is selling the playing court from Thompson-Boling Arena. The pieces come in five different sizes and are mounted on a plaque. There are five sizes from which to choose. If you want more information on how you can obtain a piece of Big Orange Country Tennessee Basketball history, call toll free (877)-UT-COURT (882-6878).

Upcoming Basketball Game Promotions

Volunteer fans, the basketball season is now upon us. Following the Vols' road match with perennial national power Arizona to open the regular season, the Vol hoopsters will return to the friendly confines of Thompson-Boling Arena on **Sunday, Nov. 15** for their first home season contest against the Tennessee State Tigers beginning at 3 p.m.

For this game only, any Volunteer fans showing their Arkansas-Tennessee football game tickets will get two basketball tickets for the price of one. WVLT will also sponsor schedule magnet day as well. Free 1998-99 Tennessee basketball schedule magnets will be distributed to the first 7,000 Vol fans through the gates, which will open at 2 p.m.

The next home game will be **Tuesday, Nov. 17** against the California State University at Northridge Matadors. Gates will open at 6:30 and the evening has been designated as GTE Wireless Web Saver night. The first 4,000 Vol faithful through the gates will receive a complimentary copy of a Tennessee Volunteers screen saver. It also contains links that utilize one's web browsing software to jump to Tennessee-specific sites on the world wide web.

— Compiled by Steve Sams

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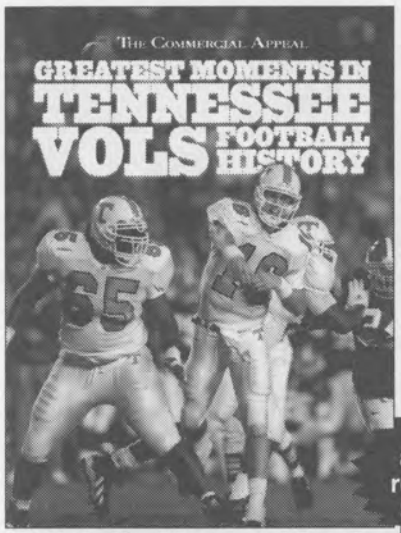

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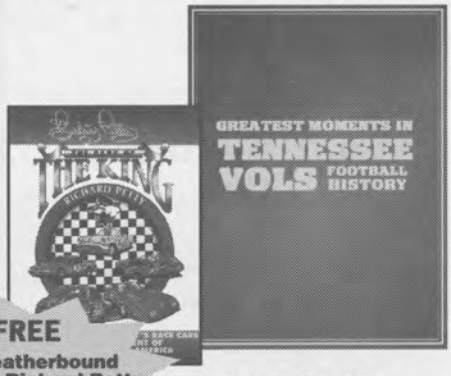

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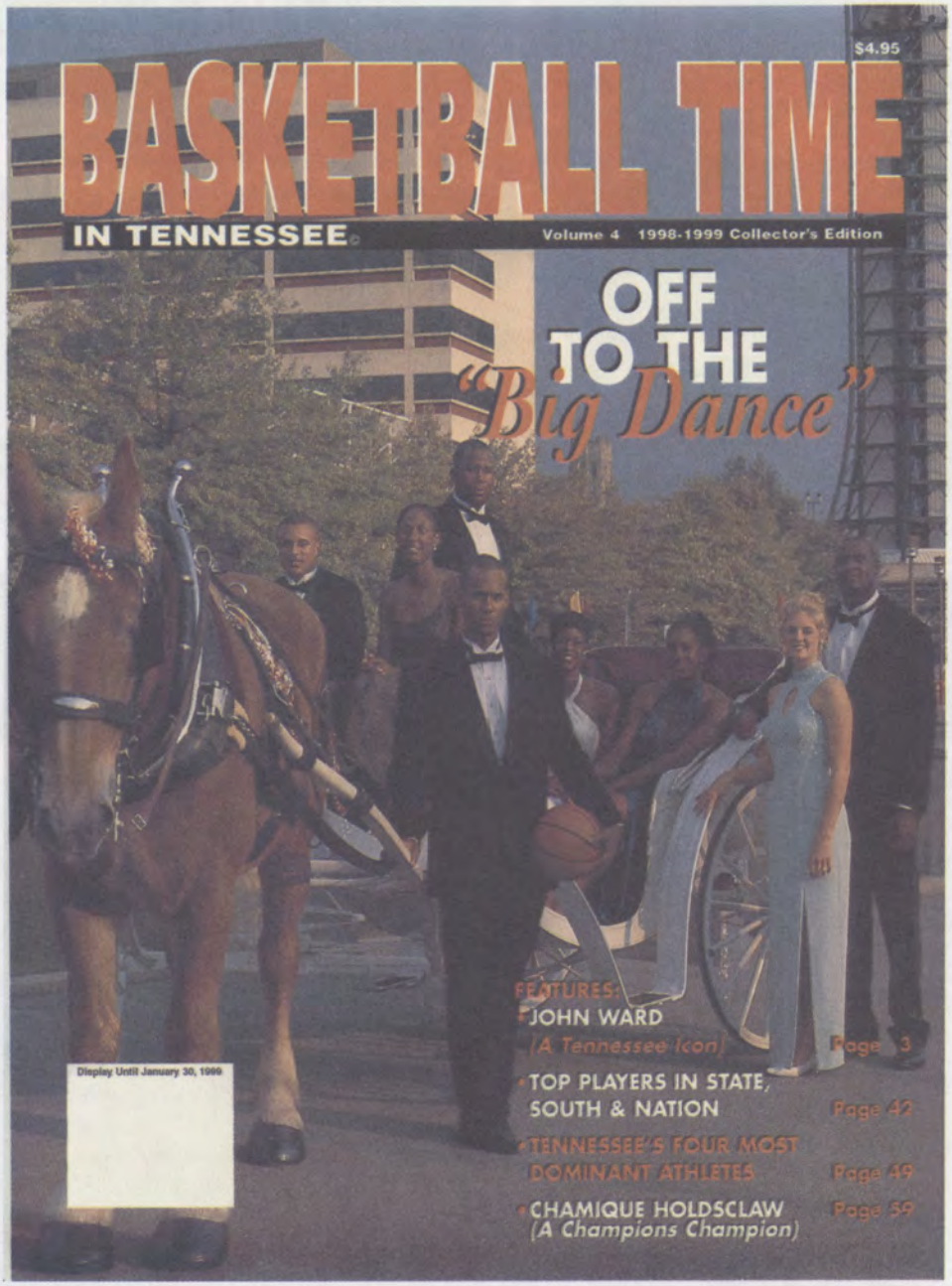

BASKETBALL TIME'S BACK ISSUES

Collector's issues of Basketball Time in Tennessee, Volume's 1 - 3, are still available for a limited time for $10.00 each (includes shipping and handling). Each year has featured the NCAA Champion Lady Vols. Collect all four as they go for four in a row. You can check out the covers by going to www.footballtime.com and clicking on the basketball button. Please indicate which issues you would like when ordering.

Soccer Duo Receives Second-Team All-SEC Accolades

Freshman Allison Campbell and sophomore Laura Lauter of the University of Tennessee soccer team were named to the 1998 Southeastern Conference Second Team in voting conducted by the league's 12 head coaches. The trio of Florida, Kentucky and Vanderbilt led all teams with four selections each, followed by Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and UT with two apiece. A total of nine teams of the league's 12 were represented. Campbell and Lauter became the second pair of Lady Vols awarded All-SEC honors, as defender Kassie Kees and midfielder Kendyl Michner were selected last season.

Soccer Sends 13 to the SEC Academic Honor Roll

The SEC has announced its 1998 SEC Soccer Academic Honor Roll. Thirteen of Tennessee's 18 eligible athletes were named to the list. Tennessee tied Florida, Georgia and Mississippi State with the most team members named to the list.

Seniors Natalie Balash (3.66/Biology/Plano, Texas), Kassie Kees (3.32/Marketing/Brentwood), Sharon Kelly (3.26/Political Science/Brantford, Ontario) as well as juniors Heather Handel (3.27/Logistics and Transportation/Germantown), Stacey Longino (3.24/Logistics and Transportation/Ann Arbor, Mich.), Melissa Majcher (3.71/Accounting/Pittsburgh, Penn.), Whitney Rayburn (3.29/Nursing/Nashville), Heather Redecker (3.92/Nursing/Fort. Lauderdale, Fla.) and Sarah Shivley (3.37/Sport Management/Tampa, Fla.) along with sophomores Kelly Berrall (3.81/Spanish/Roswell, Ga.), Laura Lauter (3.64/Communications/Farragut), Rachael Newkirk (3.76/Arts & Sciences/Roswell, Ga.) and Lisa Tipton (3.20/Arts & Sciences/Knoxville) of the University of Tennessee soccer team were named to the 1998 SEC Women's Soccer Academic Honor Roll by Southeastern Conference Commissioner Roy Kramer on Wednesday. A total of 112 student-athletes earned that recognition.

The University of Florida, University of Georgia, Mississippi State University and head coach Charlie MacCabe's Lady Vol squad paced the schools with 13 student-athletes each on the academic roster. The University of Mississippi placed 12 student-athletes on the list.

To be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must have a 3.0 grade point average for the past year or for her career, must be a sophomore or higher in academic classification, must have 24 semester hours countable toward a degree and must earn a letter for the season honored.

Mary Heinecke Selected SEC Volleyball Player of the Week

Tennessee senior outside hitter and team tri-captain Mary Heinecke (Irvine, Calif./Woodbridge) was chosen the Southeastern Conference Volleyball Player of the Week for the week ending Nov. 1. The honor marks the first time a Lady Vol has been chosen for the award since Tamala Brightman on Oct. 19, 1993.

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All prices outlined are per person based on double occupancy and are subject to change until a deposit has been received. The outlined prices do not include airfare. Please call for a price on airfare from your home city. Space is very limited on all trips.

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Volleyball Earns Weekend Sweep of Kentucky with 3-1 Victory

The Lady Vols completed a weekend sweep of Kentucky with a 3-1 (16-14, 12-15, 16-14, 15-8) victory over the Wildcats in Lexington. The win moves Tennessee into a second-place tie with South Carolina (18-5, 6-4 SEC) in the SEC Eastern Division.

The Lady Vols were led by career-highs in kills (17) and blocks (seven) from freshman Knight (Gilbert, Ariz./Gilbert). Junior Chris Jestila (Phoenix, Ariz./Sunnyslope) and senior Heinecke added 15 and 14 kills, respectively. Jestila led a trio of Lady Vols with double-digit digs as she registered 13. Freshmen Andrea Peterson (Los Angeles, Calif./Notre Dame Academy) and Erica Lear (Columbus, Ind./Columbus East) joined Jestila in double-figures with 12 and 10 digs apiece, while Lear also added a team-high 51 assists.

Lady Vols Eclipse Season Win Mark with 7-5 Win

Playing its final regular-season match on Sunday afternoon, the Lady Vol soccer team aimed to extend its winning streak to four at Vanderbilt against Colorado College. The Tigers were coming off a 3-1 setback to 12th-ranked Vandy on Friday night, while Tennessee had blanked Louisville, 6-0.

—Lady Vol Media Relation

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"Tim Kerin Food Drive" Nov. 14th

Please take part in the 7th annual "Tim Kerin Food Drive" when the Vols take on Arkansas. Collection stations for canned food and/or cash will be set up all around Neyland Stadium.

Proceeds will benefit Second Harvest Food Bank.

Faces in Big Orange Country

Before a national ESPN audience, **Del Baker** came off the bench to score a career-high 12 points at Mississippi State in Tennessee's 87-63 win at Mississippi State, hitting 5-of-8 from the field and 2-of-4 of his treys. The sophomore from Cleveland saw action in 24 games, averaging 1.8 points and 1.0 rebounds in a reserve role. He averaged 2.2 points in SEC play, connecting on 45 percent (13-of-29) from the field, including 35.7 percent (5-of-14) from three-point distance in league play. He earned consensus first-team Class AAA All-State honors as a senior. Baker helped lead Cleveland High School to a 33-2 mark and the 1997 Tennessee Class AAA state championship. Averaged 18.1 points, 7.7 rebounds and 5.2 assists as a senior He played on the same AAU team with Vol teammate C.J. Black.

After contributing 10 points on four goals and a pair of assists last season, forward **Shayna Teutsch** has increased her offensive production as a junior on the Lady Vol soccer team. In helping Tennessee to a school-record 12 victories entering the SEC Tournament, the Albuquerque, N.M., native has registered 19 points on six goals and seven assists. Teutsch began her collegiate career at the University of Kansas but transferred to UT after her rookie campaign along with teammate Kendyl Michner. That move has turned out to be a blessing for head coach Charlie MacCabe, as Michner and Teutsch rank third and fifth, respectively, in scoring. A public relations major, Teutsch scored twice and dished out an assist in UT's 7-5 triumph over Colorado College to conclude the regular season.

Sophomore **Jimmy White** is promising a successful season with the UT golf program. White has broken all of his career collegiate records in only two tournaments this fall. He recently placed tied for 13th at the Adams Cup of Newport, the second-best Vol placing. White hails from Ooltewah, Tenn., where he is the only person in state history to play on four state championship golf teams. In 1995, White won the State Junior championship, and finished tied for sixth at the Future Masters. He placed eighth at the 1996 Men's Amateur, and was named All-City each of his four years at The Baylor School in Chattanooga, Tenn. White's stroke average is 74.63 this season, one of the best on the Vol squad.

Senior **Dorothy Denko** has managed to put a solid cross country season together after missing the first event of the season at Western Carolina in September. At the Southeastern Conference Championships on Oct. 31, she helped the Orange and White to a third-place overall finish, as she crossed the finish line with a personal-best clocking of 18:15.63. A native of Krakow, Poland, Denko attended West High School in Knoxville before competing at UT-Martin for two years. Transferring to UT in 1996, she has contributed to both the cross country and track and field teams since her arrival. Named Academic All-SEC and to the Lady Vol Honor Roll last year, Denko is majoring in Russian with a minor in international business.

The Last Word...
November 7, 1959!

The date was Nov. 7, 1959, when Tennessee and LSU squared off on Shields-Watkins Field on Homecoming afternoon, 39 years to the day of Tennessee's clash with UAB.

Tennessee won that November day by a 14-13 count in one of the most thrilling games any Vol fan could ever want to see.

Gus Manning presaged the days events as follows in the game program that day, which for the record, sold for 50 cents.

"Perhaps never before has Homecoming shaped up as such a spectacular show. The theme 'Hold That Tiger' is a demanding challenge to the Vols as they face undefeated Louisiana State University, the defending national champion. Just this past week, the Bayou Bengals upheld their No 1 rating with a classic 7-3 conquest of third-ranked Ole Miss.

"You among the sellout crowd of 47,000 here today will get a first-hand view of such legendary craftsmen as :The Chinese Bandits," "Go Team," and "White Team, names familiar to millions of football followers throughout the country."

LSU had not given up a touchdown in 1959, had won 19 straight and were defending national champions. They had last lost in 1957 to Mississippi State.

What happened that Nov. 7 day on Shields-Watkins Field was nothing short of amazing. Here's what the "Monday Morning Quarterback" said about the UT-LSU game.

"A span of two minutes in the third quarter contained the elements that sent an unhappy LSU Tiger back to Baton Rouge dragging its tail languidly.

"A tension-packed final period in which Tennessee warded off LSU's final bid for victory set the stage for one of the most enthusiastic celebrations ever seen on Shields-Watkins Field. They were practically dancing in the streets as realization of the 14-13 Tennessee triumph set in.

"The Vols' chances of upsetting the nation's top-ranked power looked slim indeed until Jim Cartwright fled 59 yards with an intercepted aerial in the third period and Cotton Letner booted the PAT to make it 7-7.

Jim Cartwright had a key interception and touchdown run in the Vols' epic 14-13 win over LSU on Nov. 7, 1959.

"Moments later, Ken Sadler pounced on a Bengal fumble at the LSU 30. Four plays later, Neyle Sollee pranced 14 yards for the TD and Letner again kicked the extra point.

"The Tigers capitalized on a Vol fumble to register a touchdown in the final period, but eventual Heisman Trophy winner Billy Cannon was stopped short of the goal on a two-point conversion."

LSU had all kinds of chances during the game, but the Vols refused to yield. Wendell Harris missed field goals in the first quarter and again in the third. Even after Cannon was stopped on the fateful two-point try, the Tigers were inside Vol territory twice, but lost a fumble (Jack Kile got it) and another interception by Cartwright. The Vols stopped a third series near the 50 to close the game.

Cannon apparently knew the trip to Knoxville would be a tough one, even after the win against Ole Miss, featuring the famed punt return from south to north up the east side of Tiger Stadium.

"There's no rest for the weary," Cannon said. "We just get rid of Ole Miss and there's Tennessee staring us in the face this weekend.

"How can you celebrate about Ole Miss when Tennessee's sitting home just waiting to knock us off?"

The Vols, for their part, had won at North Carolina and were 5-1-1. From the tenor of pre-game press clippings, the Vols did not appear to be intimidated in the least by LSU's high-powered reputation. Not in the least.

History shows that when LSU closed to 14-13 there was no doubt about going for two and who would get the ball. Former Tiger coach, Charley McClendon, defensive coordinator of Paul Dietzel's staff put it succinctly.

"We would've been run out of the state of Louisiana had we not given it to Cannon," he said back in the late 1980s. "It was a case of letting your best runner have the ball in critical situations. This was for the national championship. There was no question he got us where we were. Can you imagine what would have happened had we given the ball to someone else and he not made it?"

History also shows that Bill Majors, Charley Severance and Wayne Grubb were present and voting when Cannon tried the right side there at the northeast corner.

Vol fans have never forgotten this game. Wherever Vol fans gather, someone is bound to bring up the day the Vols stopped Billy Cannon and many other moments too numerous to list here. The moments do, however, bring a smile to an old Vol's face and get the memory banks going into overtime. Even 39 years later.

A new chapter was written into Vol history on a cold November day in 1959. No one who was there will ever forget it. Nor will those who have merely heard about it or seen a flickering piece of film of the fateful two-point run. It's just another part of a grand and storied tradition.

— Tom Mattingly

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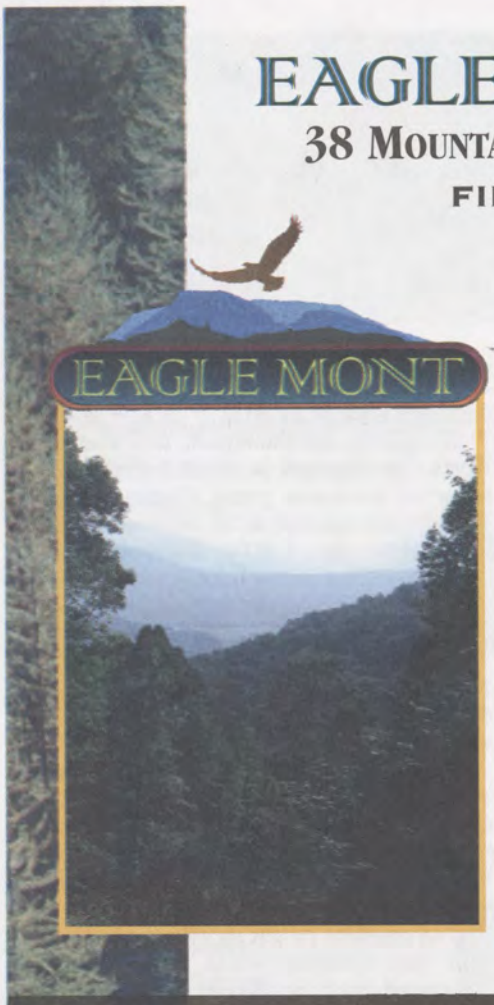

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